



Flower Culture.

GARDEN NOTES FOR JULY.

Those who require fine plants of mignonette for autumn and early winter flowering ought to make two sowings of seed, the first one about the middle of June, and the second about the middle of July. For several years I have adopted the following method, and have always found it to answer satisfactorily: Take as many six-inch pots as there are specimens required, and after draining them well, fill to within an inch of the top with a mixture of loam and rotten manure, well broken up; press it down rather firmly and sow the seed thinly, and cover lightly with finely sifted soil. Place them in a shady place, either in a frame or under hand lights. After the seedlings are up, give more air night and day. The plants will soon become strong enough for the first thinning to take place, which should consist of the weakest plants. In a short time a second thinning will be required, leaving from nine to eleven of the strongest plants at regular distances over the surface of the pot. These may be allowed to grow until they have rooted well, but at the same time they must not be allowed to get pot-bound, as if so, the stems become hard, they will attempt to bloom, and their future growth will be checked in consequence. At this stage they will be fit to put into the pots in which they are intended to flower. This large shift is necessary, because mignonette does not thrive well when frequently shifted. I use eleven inch or twelve inch pots, inside measurement. They should be perfectly drained and quite clean. As to soil, I have tried several mixtures, but have found none to equal turfy loam twelve months old and decayed, and which has been frequently soaked with farmyard liquid manure. This will, without any addition, grow the plants well. Pot them firmly and water at once; keep the sun from them, and stand the plants out-doors on a cool bottom of ashes and protected from strong winds. Stake each plant firmly at first, and when they have grown an inch or two, take out the top of every shoot; this will cause them to break two inches or three inches down the stem. These shoots, in due time, will need stopping and tying as the plants advance, until they have formed the outline of good specimens, when they are allowed to flower. At the latter part of the summer, when the plants are taken under cover, they should have a light, airy place in a greenhouse temperature. A caterpillar very similar in color to the foliage, and at first very small, will commit sad havoc

if not watched and destroyed. When the plants are well set with bloom a top-dressing of rotten manure should be given to them, and when the surface roots find their way into this, weak liquid manure should be applied twice a week, which will assist the plants when flowering, and give a good return for the labor bestowed upon them.

THE MARGOLD.

The true Marigold, *Calendula officinalis*, is indigenous to the south of Europe, and has long been cultivated for its medicinal qualities, as well as for a pot-herb. The genus *Tagetes*

is a native of Mexico and of South America, whence a few years since it was brought to France. It is not without its folklore—the French call it *soucis* (cares), and it is carefully excluded from the flowers with which the country folks tell their fortunes. The *Calendula* is also in disfavor for this purpose, as it is considered unfavorable to faithful love—its language being variously given as “jealous love” and “contempt.”

The Germans give the *Calendula* a pretty name, *ringel-blume*, ring-flower, while by some authors its language is given as “sacred affection.” We are told that it was called *Calendula* because some of the species were supposed to be in blossom every month of the calendar. The poets loved the flower; the “ardent Marigold,” Keats called it. Shakespeare numbers it with the flowers of “middle summer.”

“The Marigold goes to bed with the sun,
And with him rises weeping.”

The ease with which this flower is cultivated should be one of its recommendations for a prominent place in the garden. A well prepared bed of good rich soil in which to transplant from the hot-bed, or in which to sow the earlier varieties is all that is necessary. While some of the *Tagetes* varieties are better planted in the hot-bed, the *Calendulas* may be sown in the open ground, and once established will self-sow, furnishing plenty of material for ribbon-beds. I saw an extremely effective bed of this sort last season. It ran parallel with a hedge at the foot of a sloping lane; two rows of *Euphorbia*, or *Melissa*-head formed the background, and two rows of *Calendulas* the foreground. The contrast between the pale green and snow white of the *Euphorbia marginata* and the delicate but brilliant yellow and orange of the *Calendulas* was charming. An oval bed of the *Calendulas* bordered with scarlet *Phlox* is effective.—*Lick's Magazine*.

THE EVERLASTING PEA.

The Everlasting Pea is one of the most ornamental climbing plants in cultivation. It is an exceedingly hardy as well as a showy plant. Both the white and rose-colored varieties have long been in cultivation—how long it is impossible to say—but the striped varieties are of more recent origin. The name Everlasting Pea is in reference to its perennial character in contradistinction to the annual duration of the Sweet Pea. It is readily distinguished from the latter at a glance, in consequence of the racemes being many-flowered instead of only two-flowered. Generously treated, it will grow eight feet or ten feet high,